line 14, after "counts" insert --,-- (comma);

Page 4, line 17, after "i.e." insert --,-- (comma);

Page 5, line 23, after "i.e." insert --,-- (comma);

Page 6, lines 13, 25, 31 and 32, after "e.g." insert --,-- (comma);

Page 7, line 8, delete "In";

line 9, delete in its entirety;

line 10, delete "the claim.".

IN THE ABSTRACT

Page 10, before line 1, delete in its entirety, and insert as a centered heading

--ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE--.

A9

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Amended) A motion vector estimation method, comprising the steps [of]:

carrying out a block-based motion vector estimation process [(BME)] that involves comparing a plurality of candidate vectors to determine block-based motion vectors;

determining at least a most frequently occurring block-based motion vector [(MFMV)];

A10

carrying out a global motion vector estimation process [(GME)] using at least the most frequently occurring block-based motion vector [(MFMV)] to obtain a global motion vector [(GMV)]; and

applying the global motion vector [(GMV)] as a candidate vector to the block-based motion vector estimation process [(BME)].

2. (Amended) [A] The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the determining step includes:

making a selection among block-based motion vectors having a corresponding motion error below a given motion error threshold.

3. (Amended) [A] The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the determining step includes:

making a selection among block-based motion vectors estimated for blocks having a difference between maximum and minimum pixel values above a given activity threshold.

4. (Amended) [A] The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein both the most frequently occurring block-based motion vector [(MFMV)] and a second-most frequently occurring block-based motion vector [(SMFMV)] are determined and used in the global motion vector estimation process [(GME)].

A10 Cont.

5. (Amended) [A] The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said global motion vector estimation process [(GME)] includes the steps [of]:

comparing, on a block basis, a plurality of candidate vectors, including the most frequently occurring block-based motion vector, [(MFMV)] to obtain best vectors determined per block; and

outputting a most-frequently occurring best vector determined per block as the global motion vector [(GMV)].

6. (Amended) A motion vector estimation device, comprising:

block-based motion vector estimation means [(BME)] for determining block-based motion vectors based on a comparison of a plurality of candidate vectors;

means for determining at least a most frequently occurring block-based motion vector [(MFMV, SMFMV)];

means [(GME)] for carrying out a global motion vector estimation process using at least the most frequently occurring block-based motion vector [(MFMV, SMFMV)] to obtain a global motion vector; and

means for applying the global motion vector [(GMV)] as a candidate vector to the block-based motion vector estimation means [(BME)].

A10 cont.

7. (Amended) A motion-compensated picture signal processing apparatus, comprising:

a motion vector estimation device as claimed in claim 6 for generating motion vectors; and

a motion-compensated processor [(MCP)] for processing a picture signal in dependence on the motion vectors.

8. (Amended) A picture display apparatus, comprising:

a motion-compensated picture signal processing apparatus as claimed in claim 7 to obtain a processed picture signal; and

a display device for displaying the processed picture signal.